

LIST OF CURRENT CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus (1) for processing sheet material, ~~comprising such as bank notes (BN), having~~ a transport device (5, 7, 8, 14) for transporting single sheets of the sheet material, the transport device including ~~having~~ a diverting device (8) for diverting the transport direction of the single sheets, ~~and the diverting device comprising having~~ one or more opposite first and second diverting elements (25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 37, 47) between which the sheets are transported through for diversion, and wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the diverting device comprises ~~has~~ means (26, 27, 37, 47) for transporting even poor-quality sheets ~~through~~ between the diverting elements without jamming.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the diverting device (8) is a separate component of the apparatus (1).

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~or 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ at least some of either of or both the first and ~~and/or~~ second diverting elements comprise ~~are~~ diverting rollers (25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 37, 47) which are each mounted rotatably around an axle (25a, 26a, 27a, 28a, 30a, 37a, 47a).

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ at least one of the diverting elements (30) has a roughened surface (30Q) with depressions (30T) of at least 1 mm, ~~preferably at least 2 mm.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein ~~at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that~~ the first diverting element (37) rotates for diverting the sheet material (BN), and the first diverting element (37) has an

elastic surface (370) which, upon rotation, is deformed complementarily to the form of the second diverting element (28, 30).

6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein either of or both at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that the first and and/or second diverting element has a paddle wheel (47) with outwardly protruding paddles arranged to pull (48) for pulling along the sheet material (BN), by rotation of the paddle wheel (47), toward a point (13) in the transport path of the diverting device (8) where the sheet material (BN) is diverted.

7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the previous claims, characterized in that the diverting device (8) is a transport gate (8), arranged so that whereby mechanical displacement of a gate element (10, 16) permits the sheets to be diverted alternatively into different transport paths (9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 19).

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein characterized in that the gate element (10, 16) and the other diverting elements (25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 37, 47) are disposed in different planes.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, including at least one of the previous claims, characterized by a smoothing device (26), arranged so as to pull in particular having conically formed pressure rollers (26) with an elastic surface, which pulls apart the sheet material in a direction (K) perpendicular to the transport direction immediately before diversion (13) in the diverting device (8).

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein characterized in that the smoothing device (26) is part of the diverting device (8).

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus (1) for processing sheet material, comprising such as bank notes (BN), having an input device (3) for inputting sheet material, a transport device (5, 7, 8, 14) for transporting singled sheets of the sheet material along a transport path (S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4), the transport device including having an alignment unit (5) for aligning the input sheets against a stop extending in the transport direction, and a transport unit (7) down-stream of the alignment unit (5) for transporting the aligned sheets further, and having a monitoring device (20) for monitoring the position of the sheets in the transport path, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the monitoring device (20) effects the monitoring of the position of the sheets in the transport path only after traversal of the alignment unit (5).

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 11, including [sic], ~~characterized by~~ at least one light barrier (20) in the transport path downstream of the alignment unit (5).

13. (New) The apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the depressions are at least 2 mm.

14. (New) The apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the smoothing device comprises conically formed pressure rollers with an elastic surface.